Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

13 October 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 11, 2005

Conditions: Harmful algal blooms have been identified in Florida from Pinellas to Collier County, Dixie to Levy County, and in patches along the Alabama and Florida Panhandle from Mobile County, AL to Franklin County, FL. Patchy low impacts are expected today through Sunday from Pinellas to northern Sarasota County and from southern Lee to Collier County, with very low impacts expected for southern Sarasota to northern Lee County. Patchy low impacts are possible in Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties today through Sunday, with patchy very low impacts possible from Escambia to Walton counties and Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Dead fish have been reported over the last few days in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: Bloom persists in patches along the coast from northern Pinellas to southern Collier County. Due to persistent elevated chlorophyll levels the anomaly is not present from Clearwater to Sanibel. Imagery on October 11 indicates a high chlorophyll band (> 25μg/L) along Collier and Monroe Counties extending from 82° 2'W 26° 23'N to 81° 20W 25° 12'N, sampling is recommended in Monroe County. Fish kills were reported in Collier and Charlotte County (10/11-12, FWRI). Recent sampling results (10/11) indicate very low to low concentrations of *K. brevis* at Naples Pier, Big Marco Pass, and Gasparilla Pass in Charlotte County. High chlorophyll concentrations persist offshore from southern Sarasota to northern Lee counties (>15μg/L). Sampling is recommended. Northeasterly to northerly winds will minimize impacts to the coast throughout the weekend. Minimal movement of the bloom along the coast is expected.

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. These data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted .
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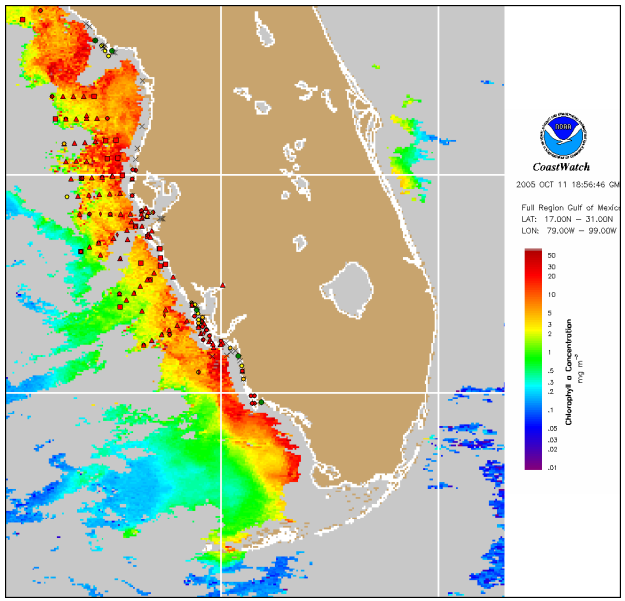
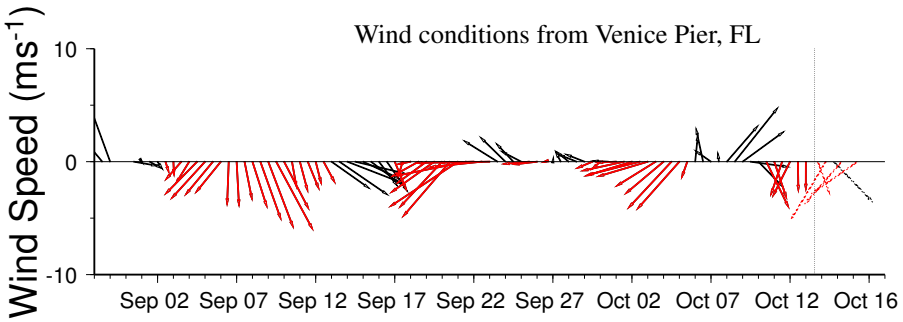
3. There are restrictions on Internet/Web/public posting of these data.
4. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Recent sampling results (10/11) indicate none to very low concentrations of *K. brevis* in Dixie County. High chlorophyll concentrations remain offshore of Dixie County (>20 μg/L). Northerly winds will minimize coastal impacts and prevent onshore movement throughout the weekend.

~ Keller, Stolz

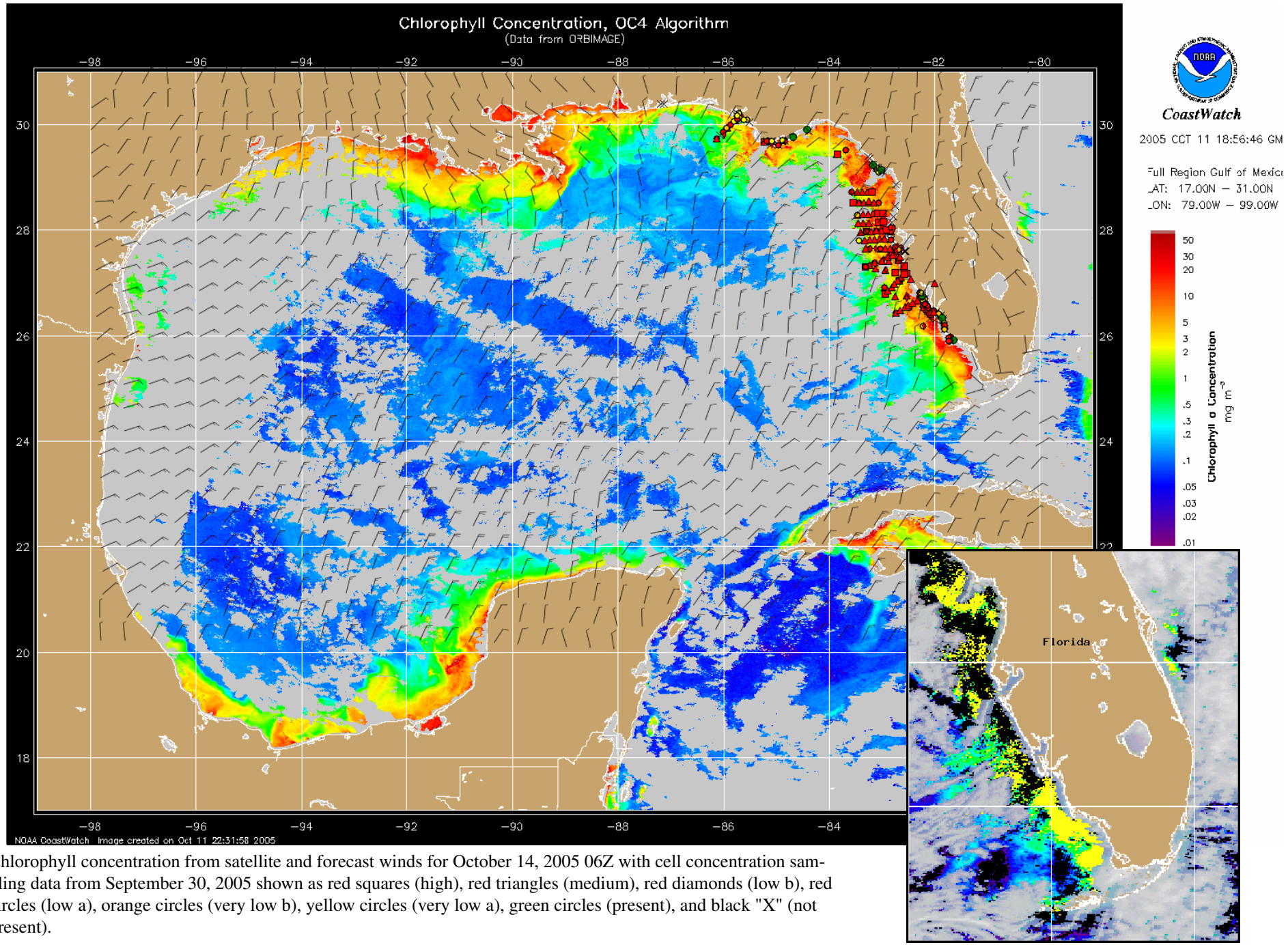


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from September 30, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Rotating northeasterly and northerly winds today through Sunday at 5-15 knots (3-8 m/s).



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for October 14, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 30, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)